

that time. You will also recall how speedily Parliament was summoned into special session at the moment of the crisis. You know the unanimity which marked the proceedings of Parliament and its momentous decision. You know what effect all those things have had upon the continued unity of this nation in a time of war. Knowing all these things as you do, I ask you, my fellow countrymen, has the course which I have pursued over the years I have been in office, as the leader of the government of this country, not been the right, and, indeed, the only wise and proper one? Quite apart from myself, if you will permit me to say so, you will do well, I believe, to judge of the future in the light of the past.

#### The People's Right to Decide Upon Leaders and Policies.

As to what leader or policies are hereafter to govern the conduct of the war, it is of course for you to say. It is your future, not that of any leader or of any government, that is at stake. No Parliament, least of all a Parliament that had run its course, and was elected without any reference to war and its appalling consequences, could have determined whom you wished to guide the destinies of this country.

My leadership today is being called in question by some who desire to see the government of this country in other hands. It is urged that other and more extreme policies should be substituted for those which my colleagues and I believe to be the only ones that, in these very critical times, can keep Canada united, and enable this country to put forth the utmost of her strength, and the maximum of her national effort in the winning of the war. Happily, at this moment, all political parties in our country claim to be of one mind in a determination to have Canada do all in her power to help win the war. I, at least, am prepared to say that such differ-

ences of opinion as do exist are for the most part either on subjects apart altogether from the war, or arise from differences of temperament, differences of method, and I think I might add, differences of experience.

#### How Best to Give Effect to Will of People— (a) in Canada's War Effort.

What, then, are the issues in this election? It seems to me that there are two real issues. Behind all the clashes of political conflict, the first issue concerns the maintenance of national unity. On that first issue depends the second issue, which is the whole policy of the government in the prosecution of the war. Both issues rise superior to personalities.

The people of Canada are being asked to decide through what government, and as a result of what policies the will of the people of Canada is likely to be carried out most completely and effectively in the prosecution of the war effort. That war effort, as I have said, has been developed upon foundations carefully prepared. It has been furthered by steady, persistent and patient labour. We have had the experience of the last war to guide us. With that experience illuminating the course which we have had to follow, we have used every effort to avoid the errors of haste and confusion, and the needless sacrifice of blood and treasure that is their inevitable result. In a struggle that is certain to be long and exhausting, our contribution will be effective to the extent that it is carefully planned in close co-operation with that of our allies.

Not only must we plan carefully, patiently and wisely for a long war, but we must never lose sight of the fact that we must, at once, prepare, as well, for the aftermath of the war.